

QUARTERLY GRAIN REPORTStation Fishkum National Wildlife Refuge Period January 1 to April 30, 1945

This report should cover all grain received, or disposed of, during the quarterly periods ending January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 30. Reports in duplicate, clipped to, but not bound as a part of, the quarterly narrative report, should reach the Regional Office by the 10th of the month following the close of the period covered by the report. The Regional Director, after approval, will forward the original to Washington.

Report all grain in bushels. For the purpose of this report the following approximate weights of grain shall be considered equivalent to a bushel: Corn (shelled)--55 lbs., Corn (ear)--70 lbs., Wheat--60 lbs., Barley--50 lbs., Rye--55 lbs., Oats--30 lbs., and Mixed--50 lbs. In computing volume of granaries, multiply the cubic contents (cu. ft.) by 0.8 bushels. Report all grain received during period from all sources, such as transfer, share cropping, or harvest from feed patches.

Variety	On Hand Beginning of Period	Received During Period	Grain Disposed of				On Hand End of Period	Proposed Use		
			Trans- ferred	Seeded	Fed	Total		Seed	Feed	Surplus
Corn										
Wheat	35	None	None	None	None	None	35		Feed	
Barley										
Rye										
Oats										
Mixed										

1. Indicate shipping or collection points Choteau, Montana2. Grain is stored at Service Building, Fishkum Refuge

3. Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Director

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Leon C. Snyder

Refuge Manager

Signature and Title

Fishman-Willow Creek

Year & Month	Precipitation	Maximum	Minimum
1945			
May	1.19	79	25
June	3.83	89	33
July	.93	94	37
August	<u>.23      6.18</u>		
1944			
May	2.48	83	23
June	3.22	90	33
July	1.46	91	36
August	<u>2.04      9.20</u>	86	39
1943			
May	1.43	77	17
June	6.64	76	30
July	1.94	86	41
August	<u>.49      10.49</u>	91	31
1942			
May	4.99	82	25
June	2.04	78	33
July	.93	84	39
August	<u>.22      8.20</u>	92	35
1941			
May	2.73	86	26
June	2.40	96	36
July	1.02	96	43
August	<u>.88      7.03</u>	94	36
1940			
May	1.50	85	28
June	1.66	89	37
July	1.19	93	48
August	<u>.15      4.70</u>	100	59

Precipitation for May this period was 1.46 inches below the average for the preceding five years whereas precipitation for June was .65 inches above the average for the same period. July precipitation was .37 inches below normal for the average of the preceding five years. Weather data for August has not yet been received from this area, however, it looks like total precipitation for the period will be considerably under the average for the preceding five years.

QUARTERLY GRAIN REPORTStation Fishkum RefugePeriod ending August 31, 1945

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			Trans- ferred	Seeded	Fed	Total		Seed	Feed	Surplus
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Wheat	35	none	none	none	none	none	35		feed	
Barley										
Rye										
Oats										
Mixed										

1. Indicate shipping or collection points Choteau, Montana2. Grain is stored at Service building Fishkum Refuge

3. Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon C. Snyder Refuge Manager  
Signature and Title

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge  
Charlo, Montana  
August 13, 1945

Memorandum to Mr. Geo. E. Mushbach, regarding trip to Fishkun, Willow Creek & Benton Lake Areas August 7 to 11.

**General:** Weather was hot and dry on the east side of the mountains throughout the week and this condition has existed for some time although grass conditions are not near as dry as they are in the Flathead Valley. Roadways are still quite green. All small reservoirs and potholes in the area must have filled up completely during the late spring and early summer as there is still an abundant supply of water in all these small ponds throughout the entire area. Waterlevels at Fishkun and Willow Creek are at the lowest level attained thus far this season but these are not out of line with those of other years, in fact Willow Creek Reservoir is still very high when compared with other years. At Benton Lake there is still a body about one-half mile long and 20 feet wide in the winding creek bed in the western portion of the refuge. This water will average about one to two feet in depth.

**Wildlife:** Fishkun Only a very few birds were noted on Fishkun proper and these were mostly Gulls, Blue Herons and Mergansers. A raft of Horned Grebes were noted out in the center of the lake. A trip was made down through the easement area and many of the small lakes visited. These small lakes all had a few ducks on them. The total duck population of the easement area was estimated at about 700 birds of which by far the majority were juveniles. Species of young ducks noted were Mallards, Pintails, Baldpates, Shovellers, Blue-winged Teal, Redheads, Canvas-backs and Ruddy Ducks. 23 Pintail Grouse were also noted in the easement areas.

Willow Creek: Approximately 8000 birds were noted on the water at Willow Creek reservoir. About one-third of this number consisted of Horned Grebes and approximately 100 were White Pelican, the balance being ducks with a scattering of American Coot. Broods of young ducks ranging in size from very small birds up to birds already flying were very prominent. An estimation on the number of young birds was not attempted. 16 Canada Geese were also noted. While at Willow Creek I chanced to meet Mr. Fritzie, the Reclamation ditch rider for this area. Mr. Fritzie visits this area about twice weekly and is in a position to know something about the birds in the area. He informed me that at least one pair of Canada Geese nested at Willow Creek this year and raised 6 young. He noted this pair with their young several times. With Willow Creek Reservoir reaching near its maximum level the last couple of years and staying well up during the nesting season like it has, a couple of very good goose nesting islands have been created and it is quite possible that more and more Canada Geese will start using this area for nesting purposes.

Benton Lake: Only three ducks were noted, one female mallard with two young. All observations on all refuges were made from the pickup while driving as close to shore lines as possible. It is quite possible that a large number of birds were not noted in the tall grasses along water edges.



Grazing: Pishkun. Approximately 25 head of horses and 50 head of yearling heifers were noted grazing on Pishkun proper. Grass conditions look much better in the Pishkun field at this time of the year than I have ever noted in the past. No steck was noted at all in that portion of the easement areas best adapted to waterfowl.

Willow Creek. Grass conditions at Willow Creek also look much better at the present time than they have in past years. There seems to be quite a reduction in the number of cattle grazing in the field this season.

Benton Lake. Around the water area in the northwestern portion of Benton Lake Refuge the grazing has been very heavy so far this season and this portion of the refuge is beginning to show signs of over grazing. That portion of the refuge close in around the well in the north central area is also showing signs of over grazing but at present is not quite as bad as the northwestern portion. The balance of the refuge does not show any signs of ever being grazed and much grass is going to waste here. As the water dries up in the northwestern portion of the refuge, which it will likely do by September first, cattle will graze more and more around the well area and this area will likely be treated pretty rough before the end of the grazing season.

Most

All the grazing permittees at Benton Lake Refuge were contacted during the recent visit to this area and changes in the number of A.U.Ms to be used this season were discussed. In a few cases permittees have already taken out or wish to take some cattle out of the refuge. This will make it necessary to make some adjustments and changes in future billings but I believe it will be an advantage to the refuge as it will lessen the grazing pressure on the area close in around the watering unit and give the balance of the cattle a better chance to get in and drink and get away again. The following is the changes and adjustments requested by the permittees:

Edwin Fink, No changes or adjustments requested.

Arthur Hazeltine; Mr. Hazeltine wishes to take out some steers and turn them in his stubble fields but intends to replace them with cows, thus no changes will be necessary in his future billings.

Charles Hinderager; Mr. Hinderager intends to take out about 25 head of beef steers for sale about September 15th but is undecided as yet whether or not he will replace them with cows. He will let us know by September first just what he intends to do.

Carl Hinderager; No changes or adjustments requested.

John Hinkle; No changes or adjustments requested.

Lloyd B. Johnston, O. M. Olson, and E. G. Stafford were not contacted.

Lawrence E. Suck; Changes and adjustments are requested by Mr. Suck. He informed me that he took 25 head of cattle out of the refuge about August first, however he does not request any adjustment for the period August 1st to 14th as this payment has already been received and sent in. He has also received the billing for 75 head for the period August 15 to September 14

and intends to send in the payment as billed although he only has 50 head of cattle on the refuge during this period. He is requesting an adjustment on the September 15 to October 14 billing. This billing should be for 25 head and the last two billings for 50 head each.

R. R. Swan: Like previous years Mr. Swan has again got his A.U.Ms all muddled up. He says he considerably over estimated the number of cattle he has at the time he made application for permit. The following is a list by months of the number of cattle he actually had in the refuge as well as a list by months of the A.U.Ms he has actually paid for:

Cattle actually in refuge	A.U.Ms actually paid for.
6-15/7-14-45 ----- 60 A.U.Ms	Billed and paid for ----- 65 A.U.Ms
7-15/7-31-45 -----60	
8-1/8-14-45 -----120	
Total for 7-15/8-14-45 ----- 90 A.U.Ms	Billed and paid for -----140 A.U.Ms
8-15/9-14-45 -----120 A.U.Ms	Billed & will send pay for 140A.U.Ms
Total 270 A.U.Ms	Total 345 A.U.Ms

This leaves a credit to Mr. Swan of 75 A.U.Ms for the period from Sept. 15 to October 14 which is the termination date of his permit. He would like to take all but the 75 head out on September 14. This would balance off his overpayment during the first three months use of his permit.

Haying: Up to the present date Mr. Hazeltine is the only one of the four applicants granted haying permits who has put up any hay. He has one stack of approximately 12 ton put up. He intends to put up more after he gets his grain harvesting done. Chas Hinderager has his haying outfit on the refuge and intends to start immediately. Mr. Fink also intends to start as soon as possible and is confident that he can obtain some hay by cutting over ground not previously cut over in past years. Mr. Love was not contacted so it is not known whether or not what his intentions are.

Fire Guards: Mr. Hazeltine has completed both operations on his portion of fireguards and payment can now be made to him. His section of the fireguards are in excellent condition.

That portion of the fire guards assigned to Mr. Suek and Mr. Swan have been maintained only once to date but are in good condition, however the refuge manager believes that a second operation is necessary and these men plan to do this as soon as possible. Fire guards along the eastern border of the refuge assigned to Mr. Hinkle are in poor condition although one operation has been done. Mr. Hinkle has been away from home much of the time this summer and did not go over the fire guard until about July 15th and although the weed growth was killed it was not covered very well. He has agreed to go over this again and see that the weeds are covered as soon as he can get to it.

The of farmers in this area for fire guard maintenance has not proved out very satisfactory. The labor situation has been very acute and farmers have had a very hard time to get their own work done. If at all possible in the future fire guard maintenance at Benton Lake should be done by regular refuge personnel.

Grazing of outside Units:

An application for a 5 year lease grazing permit was accepted from Peter Fake of Black Eagle, Montana for Unit 3-G at Benton Lake. Permits on a one year basis have previously been granted to Mr. Fake on this unit. The last permit granted was terminated on July 15, 1945. Mr. Fake stated that he has been utilizing the grass on this unit from July 16, 1945 and was waiting for a bill for the next years grazing fees. As Mr. Fake's last permit terminated July 15, 1945 the refuge manager was waiting for Mr. Fake to request a new permit. Since Mr. Fake stated he has been utilizing the grass on Unit 3-G since the termination of his last permit the application for the new permit is dated back to be effective on July 16, 1945.

Misc:

While in Great Falls I contacted the County Extension Agent relative to his letter of July 11, 1945 requesting that a key to Benton Lake gates be furnished to cooperative trappers now trapping coyotes in that portion of Cascade County. I informed Mr. Fosse, the County Agent, that this matter was being taken up with our Regional Office and that at the present time we did not have any authorization for the trapping or shooting of coyotes on Benton Lake Refuge but if such authorization could be obtained arrangements could be made for cooperative trapper to enter the refuge. Mr. Fosse informed me that he thought it very foolish that we should try to harbor coyotes in the refuge at any time and that the cooperative trapper now working that portion of the county has been going in to Benton Lake Refuge very frequently and is trapping coyotes within the refuge. Entrance in the refuge is being made through gates used by the various permittees.

When authorization for the taking of coyotes is requested for Benton Lake it should also be requested for Fishkum and Willow Creek refuges as according to reports from local ranchers and Reclamation employees, coyotes are becoming quite numerous along the foothills and causing considerable damage to sheep men. Trapping and den hunting has fallen off considerably during the past few years. Mr. Otto Repp, a sheep man about 6 miles north-east of Fishkum told me he lost 5 lambs in one day a few weeks ago and that he did not dare leave his sheep at all while they were out on the range.

Leon C. Snyder  
Refuge Manager



R-13 E-5 & 6

Taken 5-22-45 at Willow Creek Refuge. Willow Creek Reservoir reached an elevation of 4130 for the first time in the history of the reservoir during January of 1943. Since that date it has ranged from 4130 to 4140, however on a few occasions it was below 4130. When the waterlevel of Willow Creek is at 4130 or above it creates a large island in the western portion of the reservoir. On May 22, 1945 the water level stood at 4136.7 feet. On this date the channel noted in exposure 5 was about 6 feet deep and 40 yards wide. It was necessary to take two pictures to take in the entire island. One pair of Canada Geese nested and reared 6 young on Willow Creek Refuge this summer and it is quite probable that they nested on this island. Canada Geese have never nested here before.





REFUGEE GRAIN REPORT

Refugee Plakun

Months of Sept. thru Dec. 1945

(1) VARIETY	(2) ON HAND BEGINNING OF PERIOD	(3) RECEIVED DURING PERIOD	(4) TOTAL	(5) GRAIN DISPOSED OF				(6) ON HAND END OF PERIOD	(7) PROPOSED USE		
				TRANS- FERRED	SEEDED	FED	TOTAL		SEED	FEED	SURP.
Wheat	35	none	35	none	none	none	none	35	---	35	---

(8) Indicate shipping or collection points Chateau of Augusta Montana

(9) Grain is stored at Service building, Police headquarters.

(10) Remarks

## REFUGEE GRAIN REPORT

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Report all grain in bushels. For the purpose of this report the following approximate weights of grain shall be considered equivalent to a bushel: Corn (shelled)--55 lbs., Corn (ear)--70 lbs., Wheat--60 lbs., Barley--50 lbs., Rye--55 lbs., Oats--30 lbs., Soy Beans--60 lbs., Millet--50 lbs., Cowpeas--60 lbs., and Mixed--50 lbs. In computing volume of granaries, multiply the cubic contents (cu. ft.) by 0.8 bushels.

- (1) List each type of grain separately: Corn, wheat, proso millet, etc. Include only domestic grains; aquatic and other seeds will be listed on NR-9.
- (3) Report all grain received during period from all sources, such as transfer, share-cropping, or harvest from food patches.
- (4) A total of Columns 2 and 3.
- (6) Column 4 less Column 5.
- (7) This is a proposed breakdown by varieties of grain listed in Column 6.
- (8) Nearest railroad station for shipping and receiving.
- (9) Where stored on refuge: "Headquarters grainary", etc.
- (10) Indicate here the source of grain shipped in, destination of grain transferred, data on condition of grain, unusual uses proposed.

## HAYING AND GRAZING

Refuge Benton LakeYear 1945

Permittee	Permit No.	Unit or Location	Actual Acreage Utilized	Animal Use Months	Tons of Hay Harvested	Period of Use From - To	Rate	Total Income	Remarks
Edwin Fink	13067	1-0	10480	48		7-1/10-31/45	.50	\$ 24.00	
Arthur Hanelius	14397	1-0	"	18		11-1/12-15/45	.50	9.00	Wten. Permit
Arthur Hanelius	13964	1-0	"	180		1-26/45-5-20/45	.50	90.00	
Arthur Hanelius	13063	1-0	"	480		6-15/12-14/45	.50	240.00	
Arthur Hanelius	14483	1-0	"	30		12-15/45-3-14/46	.50	15.00	Used 15 days 1945
Chad. Hinderger	13068	1-0	"	300		6-15/10-14/45	.50	150.00	
Carl Hinderger	13064	1-0	"	300		6-15/10-14/45	.50	150.00	
John Hinkle	13060	1-0	"	610		6-15/12-14/45	.50	305.00	
Lloyd H. Johnston	13069	1-0	"	96		7-1/10-31/45	.50	48.00	
O. H. Olson	14301	1-0	"	54		6-15/12-14/45	.50	27.00	
R. O. Stafford	14303	1-0	"	60		7-15/12-14/45	.50	30.00	
Lawrence E. Suck	13061	1-0	"	300		6-15/12-14/45	.50	150.00	
R. H. Swan	13065	1-0	"	345		6-15/9-14/45	.50	172.50	
Charles Thomas	11068	5-0	380	168		6-1-45/5-31-50	.104	39.50	Passed 10-1945
Carl Hinderger	11073	4-0	147	96		6-1-45/5-31-50	.104	14.70	Fee for
Peter Fink	11130	3-0	350	108		7-16-45/7-15-50	.104	36.30	Fee for 1945
Kevin J. Fink	13071	1-3H	None		None	7-15-45/5-31-46	1.004	7.50	Portied down
Arthur Hanelius	13075	21-22-23-24							
		27-30-30H	60		29.65	7-1-45/5-31-46	1.004	29.65	
		16-17-18-19							
Chad Hinderger	14306	25-26 H	75		37.54	7-1-45/5-31-46	1.004	37.54	

Totals:

Acreage grazed 11,187Animal use months 3016Total income Grazing \$1502.70Acreage cut for hay 133Tons of hay cut 67.39Total income Haying \$ 74.85